



(Photo by 1st Lt. Robert Murray, 1-22 Inf., 2nd BCT, 1st Inf. Div.)

New buddies

2nd Lt. Stuart Keogh, of Company A, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, exchanges a 'high-five' with a local Iraqi boy from the Agerquf area of western Baghdad.

Medics deliver when it matters most

By Spc. Courtney Marulli
2-2 ID Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE LOYALTY, Iraq - The medics of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division train hard in order to save the lives of any Soldier and, sometimes, that includes the lives of Soldiers they work with on a daily basis.

These medics found out quickly they

have little time to adjust from garrison to combat once in Iraq.

Sgt. Bambi Sharpe, the supply and evacuation noncommissioned officer in charge for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Brigade Special Troops Battalion, of Rocky Mount, N.C., said the new medics did a wonderful job when several casualties came in after a mortar attack.

"I thought, initially, we were going to

have people choke up," Sharpe said, "but they got right in there and got their hands dirty.

Sharpe said seasoned and new medics are stepping up and doing what needs to be done to properly care for patients.

Pfc. Heaven Gallop, a medic with HHC, BSTB, from Winston, S.C., said she

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(Photo by Spc. C. Terrell Turner, 4th Inf. Div. Public Affairs)

"8675309..."

Pfc. Angie Huynh, military policeman, 463rd MP Company, confirms the serial numbers on an AK-47 before the shift begins for an Iraqi police officer at the Joint Coordination Center in Tarmiyah, Iraq.

Arabic Phrase of the Day

shgadd bi iid?

Defined:
how far?

Iraq 3-Day Forecast



Today

High: 72
Low: 39



Tomorrow

High: 74
Low: 41



Friday

High: 72
Low: 41

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When lives are on the line, there's no time for emotions

Medics

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wanted to be a medic since she was a little girl. She used to go around trying to bandage animals and other children whenever they were hurt.

"I grew up watching war movies with my father," she said. "I wanted to be the one out there with the face paint and helping."

Gallop said the medical team for her brigade, with a mix of medics and physician's assistants, offers her a great environment to continue learning about the medical field.

When her first patient came in, Gallop said the training paid off.

"You don't really have time to freak out. You don't have time to process it," she said. "You can only concentrate on the patient and then later reflect

on it. You always learn from each patient because they're different."

Gallop said it's rewarding when a patient looks at her and knows they can depend on her. She also feels good when she's done the best she can to help someone.

Pfc. Chris Llewellyn, of Sacramento, Calif., a medic with HHC, 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, said even though this is his first deployment, he isn't feeling too apprehensive.

"I had more anxiety before I got here than since I've been here," he said.

The first time Llewellyn toured the aid station, there was a mortar attack and he lights went out. Several casualties came in, but the trauma training he received prepared him for the emergency and the outage.

Aside from treating casualties, Llewellyn said he is

learning how to manage sick call, which includes learning about medications and how to tell what is normal by listening to someone's heart and lungs.

Pvt. Charlie Pennington of Indianapolis, a line medic with Company A, 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment. He said he was a pre-med major before joining the Army. His interest is orthopedics, but he enjoys it all aspects of health care.

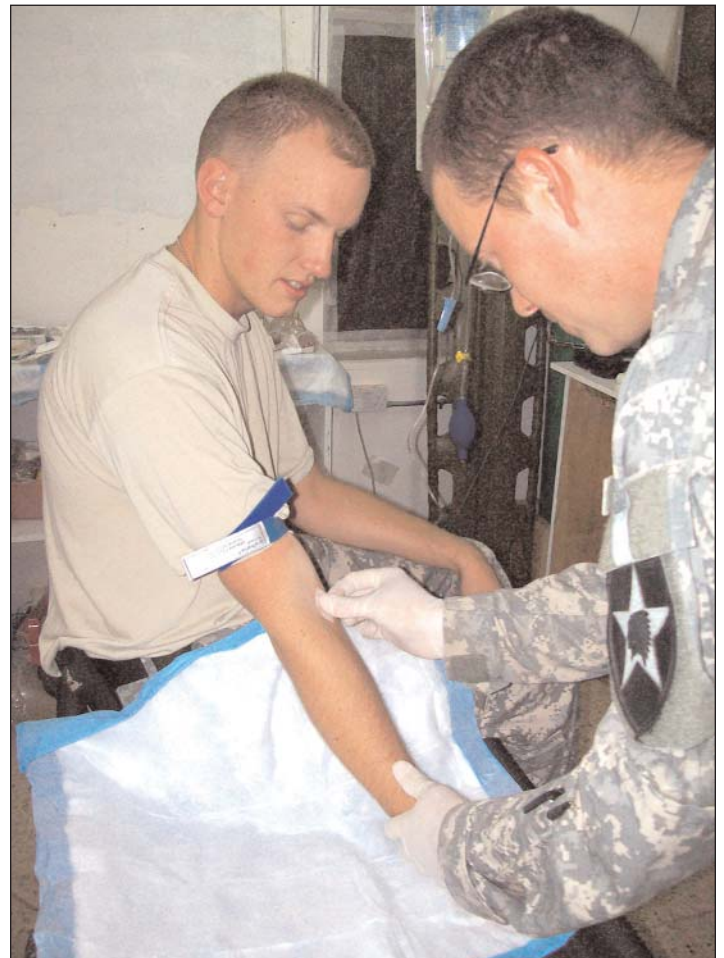
"We've been shot at, but no one's been hurt," he said.

Even though he hasn't treated anyone yet, Pennington

feels prepared because of the experience he received at medical school. Pennington said he was also an emergency medical technician in high school.

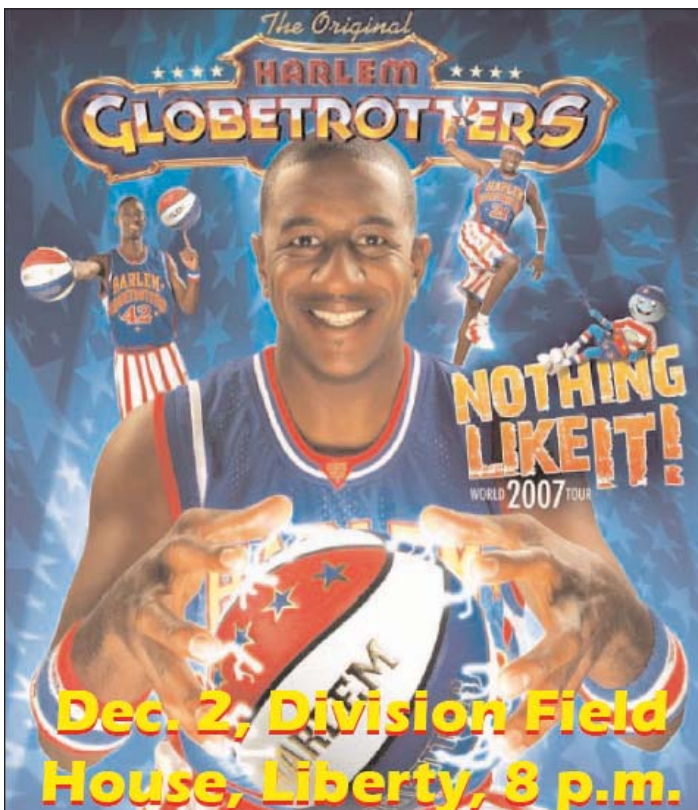
Medics not only have to learn the technical aspects of their job, they may have to put their knowledge to use on those they know. For Sharpe, that is the hardest part of her job.

"It's hard to work on someone you know who is on the table," she said. "I was a line medic last time and it got real personal. Those guys are the one's who have your back, no matter what."



(Photo by Spc. Courtney Marulli, 2-2 Inf. Div. Public Affairs)

Pfc. Chris Llewellyn, a medic with the 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, and Sacramento, Calif. native, preps Spc. Clint Zeller for an intravenous injection at Forward Operating Base Loyalty, Iraq.



Troops, EOD teams, rely on each other

By Pfc. Shea Butler
7th MPAD

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq - A group of Soldiers stand in line for lunch as they jokingly make fun of one another, like good friends do, until they get a call on the radio - *'An improvised explosive device has been*



(Photo by Pfc. Shea Butler, 7th MPAD)

Pfc. Jason Ferris, a gunner for 1st Platoon, Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, acts as the eyes of the platoon while on mission in Baghdad.

found.'

Before the voice in the radio can finish, the Soldiers take off in a sprint toward their humvees.

In a matter of minutes, Soldiers from 1st Platoon, Battery B, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, are geared up and mounted in their up-armored trucks ready for their mission.

The platoon's mission - to provide security for the explosive ordnance disposal team while they work keeping other Soldiers safe.

Each Soldier in the security team has an equally important job to accomplish, but there is only one guy with a full view of what is really going on, the gunner.

"My job is to provide rear security for EOD and the rest of my platoon while we are on missions," said Spc. Reginald Winston, a gunner for 1st Platoon. "When the call comes down I gear up, climb up the turret, quickly slam down an energy drink and say the Lord's Prayer," said Winston, a native of Casagrande, Ariz. "Then we roll."

While driving on the streets of Baghdad a plethora of thoughts may run through Soldier's heads, but for 24-year-old Winston his teammates safety is on his mind.

"I get a little nervous when I'm in the gunner's hatch, but my main focus is being the eyes for the rest of the guys in the truck. I'm constantly scanning for snipers and more IEDs," he said.

He wants to keep his platoon safe as possible and wants to give EOD a safe environment in which to work, Winston added.

"Everyone wants to keep EOD safe. They are the ones equipped to detonate IEDs, so they aren't hurting Soldiers," Winston explained.

Soldiers are trained for the urban combat environment. They attend many classes on IEDs and how to spot things that our out of place.

Winston knows when something is out of place on a route he has taken before. He feels it in his gut when something is wrong, he said.

"It makes me feel good that other Soldiers are spotting these IEDs ahead of time. It helps me know that all of our class time is worth it in the end," said Winston, who has already spent two years in a combat zone.

"I trust the guys in my platoon whole heartedly," Winston said. "I know how well they have been trained. Whatever my team leader says is gold. I know he wouldn't steer us wrong."

When they get to the sight of the IED, Winston's platoon provides security while EOD works quickly to detonate them safely.

The security team knows their mission is almost complete when the explosive technicians detonate the find, Winston said.

"It's then time to head back and prepare for the next mission."

Scouts stop suspected weapons smuggler

By Sgt. 1st Class Kap Kim
2-1 Cav. Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Soldiers from the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, put a suspected weapons smuggler out of business late Nov. 22.

The Scout Platoon "Swamp Rats" from

Schweinfurt, Germany, currently attached to 1st Cavalry Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team, in conjunction with another agency worked together for weeks to gather intelligence on the whereabouts and identity of the suspected weapons smuggler.

"It was a successful operation from the planning phase to the actual time of the hit. It all worked out," said Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Wilcoxon, the Swamp

Rats' platoon sergeant who calls Bushnell, Ill. home.

Wilcoxon's team set up an outer cordon area and another team simply walked up on the suspect while he was on his porch.

After detaining him, another team entered the house and started gathering evidence. According to Wilcoxon, the entire operation took roughly 45 minutes. "For us, it was one of the easiest missions we've

had," he said.

Sgt. Michael Solley, a section leader from Houston, said the same thing as he described the operation to be "cut and dry." "While this particular suspect ranked high on their list, Solley said his team treats all their missions the same.

"We properly ID'd him. We continued through his house and properly ID'd everyone inside, too," he said. "It was a good mission."